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The diagnostic and prognostic value of tumor angiogenesis.

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The "angiogenic switch" and tumor angiogenesis play a critical role in the growth and metastasis of solid tumors. Tumor angiogenesis is regulated by a balance of stimulators (e.g., VEGF, bFGF) and inhibitors of angiogenesis (e.g., angiostatin, endostatin, angiostatic steroids). Measuring angiogenesis (blood vessel density) and/or its main regulators such as VEGF and bFGF in solid tumors, or the levels of these growth factors in the serum or urine provides new and sensitive markers for tumor progression, metastasis and prognosis.

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